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CAPTAIN AMERICA
AND
THE FALCON
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HE PRODUCED WHAT FRANKENSTEIN WOULD NOT DARE! MEET ARNIM ZOLA, THE BIO-FANATIC!
ATTACK, PRIMUS... ATTACK!

1941! The world at war! And in a full-security laboratory, frail *Steve Rogers* became *Captain America*, the American *super-soldier!* For four thrilling years, he struck back at the Axis' treacherous attack— until a freak stroke of fate threw him into *suspended animation*...to awaken in the *mid-1960's*, a man *twenty years out of his time.* Since that day, *Captain America* has sought his destiny in this *brave new world.*

STAN LEE PRESENTS: CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON™

WRITTEN, EDITED & DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKED BY FRANK GIACOIA • ADMIRED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

IT USED TO BE A POPULAR SCIENCE-FICTION THEME UNTIL MODERN TECHNOLOGY MADE IT FACT -- LIFE CAN BE MANUFACTURED IN A TEST TUBE TODAY, AND THE SCIENCE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING IS NOW EXPANDING ITS HORIZONS. THE QUESTION IS -- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? AND HOW FAR??? CAP FINDS A HORRIFYING ANSWER, DEEP IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE!!! HE FINDS --

ARNIM ZOLA-- The BIO-FANATIC!!

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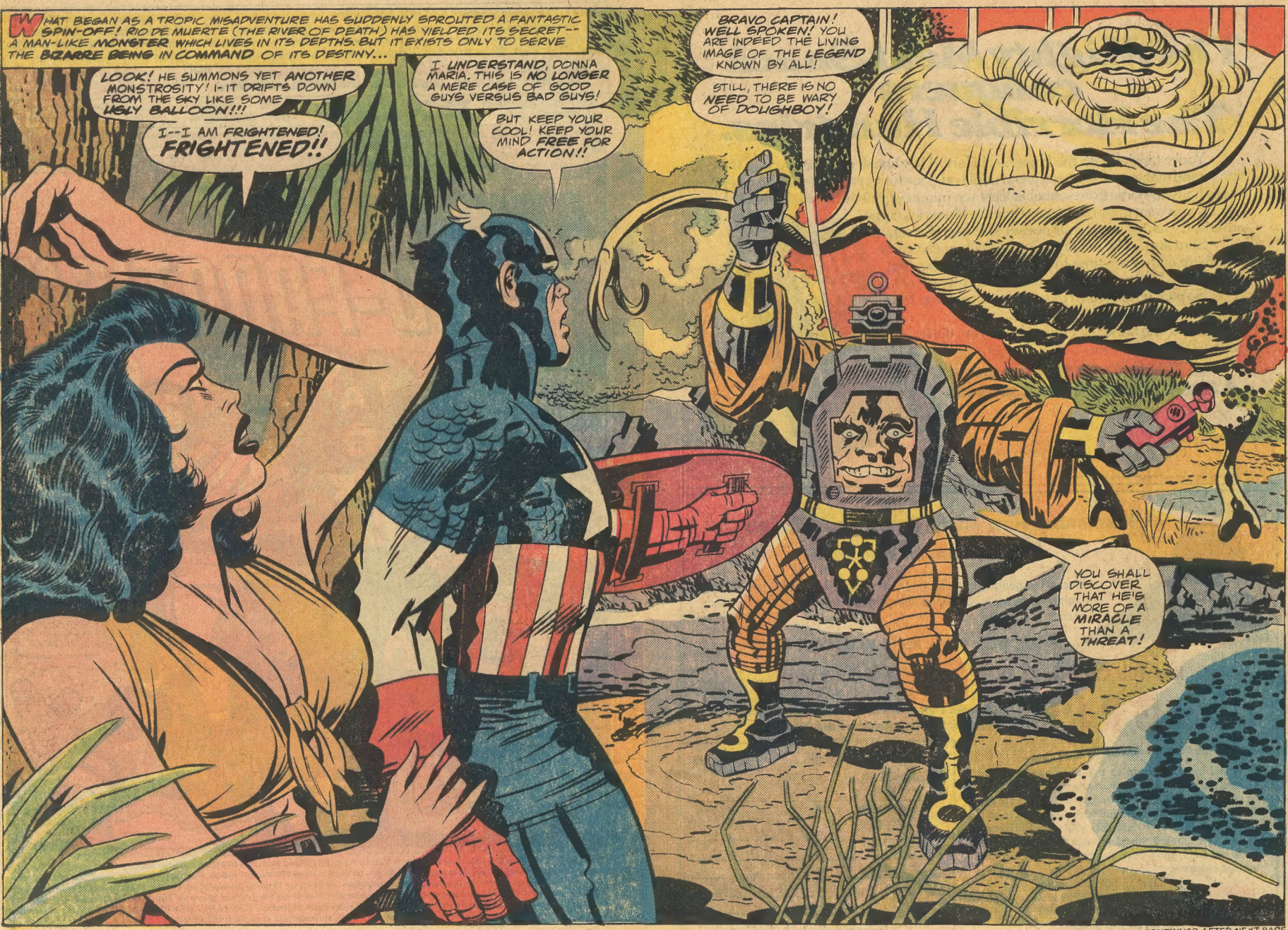

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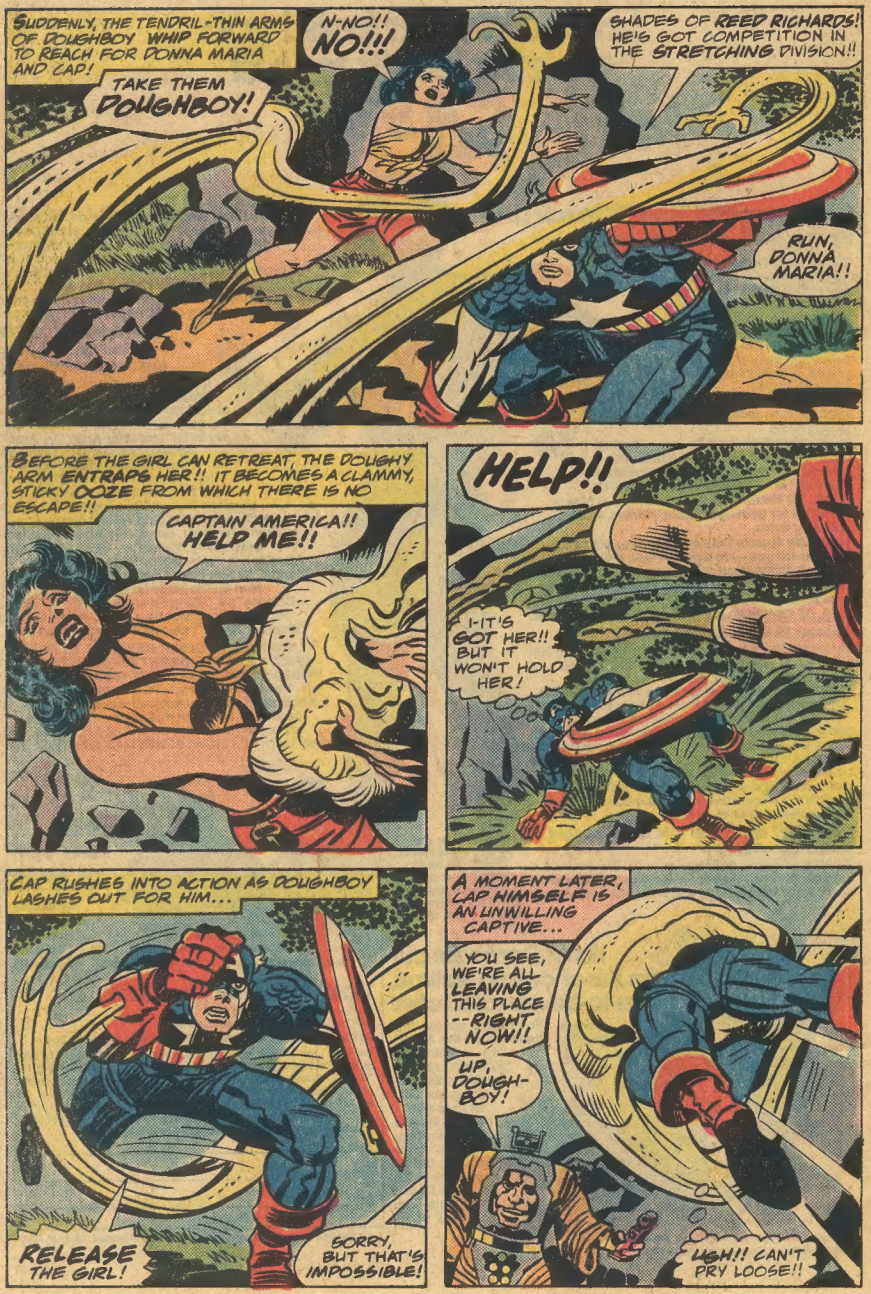
SUDDENLY, THE TENDRIL-THIN ARMS OF DOUGHBOY WHIP FORWARD TO REACH FOR DONNA MARIA AND CAP!
N-NO!! NO!!!
TAKE THEM DOUGHBOY!
SHADES OF REED RICHARDS! HE'S GOT COMPETITION IN THE STRETCHING DIVISION!!
RUN, DONNA MARIA!!
BEFORE THE GIRL CAN RETREAT, THE DOUGHY ARM ENTRAPS HER!! IT BECOMES A CLAMMY, STICKY OOZE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE!!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!! HELP ME!!
HELP!!
I-IT'S GOT HER!! BUT IT WON'T HOLD HER!
CAP RUSHES INTO ACTION AS DOUGHBOY LASHES OUT FOR HIM...
RELEASE THE GIRL!
SORRY, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
A MOMENT LATER, CAP HIMSELF IS AN UNWILLING CAPTIVE...
YOU SEE, WE'RE ALL LEAVING THIS PLACE --RIGHT NOW!!
UP, DOUGH-BOY!
UGH!! CAN'T PRY LOOSE!!

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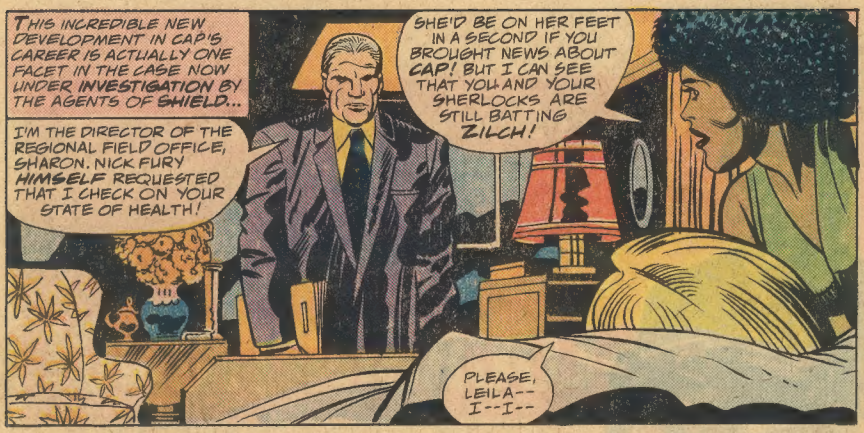
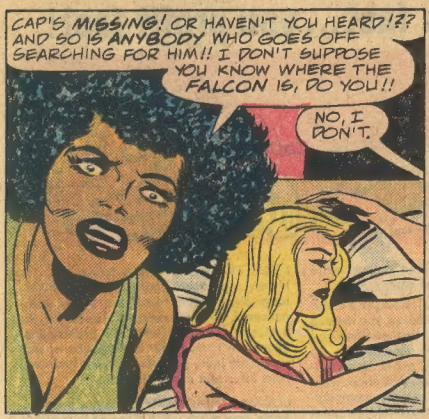
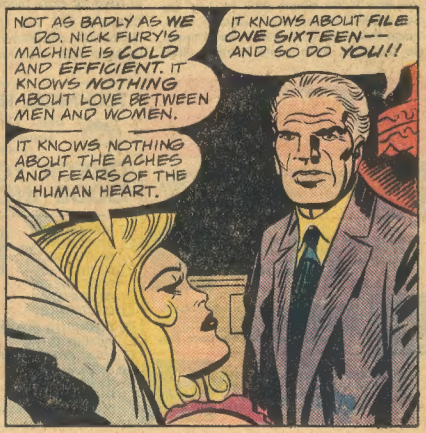

THIS INCREDIBLE NEW DEVELOPMENT IN CAP'S CAREER IS ACTUALLY ONE FACET IN THE CASE NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE AGENTS OF SHIELD...
I'M THE DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE, SHARON. NICK FURY HIMSELF REQUESTED THAT I CHECK ON YOUR STATE OF HEALTH!
SHE'D BE ON HER FEET IN A SECOND IF YOU BROUGHT NEWS ABOUT CAP! BUT I CAN SEE THAT YOU AND YOUR SHERLOCKS ARE STILL BATTING ZILCH!
PLEASE, LEILA-- I--I--


CAP'S MISSING! OR HAVEN'T YOU HEARD!?? AND SO IS ANYBODY WHO GOES OFF SEARCHING FOR HIM!! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHERE THE FALCON IS, DO YOU!!
NO, I DON'T.

BUT I DO KNOW THIS--WHEREVER CAP AND THE FALCON ARE, THE JOB IS BEING DONE!! THE JOB THIS COUNTRY DEMANDS OF US ALL.
HOORAY FOR OUR SIDE!!!
DON'T MIND, LEILA! WAITING IS A ROUGH GAME, TOO. IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR US.

OF COURSE NOT. TWO MISSING SUPER-HEROES CAN LEAVE A LARGE VACUUM. SHIELD NEEDS THEM TOO, YOU KNOW.
IN FACT, WE NEED THEM BADLY!!


NOT AS BADLY AS WE DO. NICK FURY'S MACHINE IS COLD AND EFFICIENT. IT KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT LOVE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.
IT KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE ACHES AND FEARS OF THE HUMAN HEART.
IT KNOWS ABOUT FILE ONE SIXTEEN-- AND SO DO YOU!!

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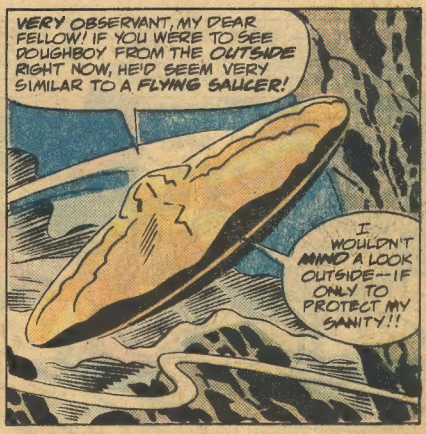
SHARON, YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING??
I--I'M DOING WHAT CAP WOULD DO-- NO MATTER HOW BADLY IT HURTS INSIDE.
YOU HEARD "MISTER WONDERFUL" HERE!! THIS JOB IS A KILLER!! AND WINDING UP DEAD IS NO WAY TO WIN EQUALITY WITH MEN!!
I-IT'S WORK, LEILA. I-IT'S BETTER THAN THE TRIAL OF WAITING!!
SPEAKING AS AN OLD MALE CHAUVINIST, I FIND THIS YOUNG LADY UNCOMMONLY SENSIBLE!
I'LL EXPECT YOU AT THE OFFICE FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.
HMMPF! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PART OF THE ORIGINAL "DIRTY DOZEN" DURING WORLD WAR TWO!
THAT CAKE OF ICE MUST'VE BEEN THE COMMANDING OFFICER! TELL HIM TO BLOW AWAY, HONEY! TELL HIM--
I'M GOING TO DO WHAT SHIELD EXPECTS OF ME--! BUT NOT BEFORE I'VE HAD A NEW HAIR-DO!
SEND THE BILL TO ME!
MEANWHILE, HIGH IN THE EARTH'S STRATOSPHERE, DOUGHBOY HAS STREAMLINED HIS FORM AND STREAKS ACROSS THE WORLD...
YOU ARE TRAVELLING INSIDE AN AMAZING ANIMAL, CAPTAIN AMERICA-- ONE THAT CAN ACHIEVE SUPERSONIC SPEEDS!

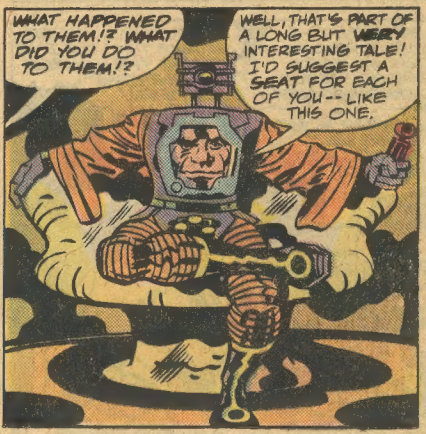
DOUGHBOY MOVES ABOUT LIKE THE SQUID OR OCTOPUS, WITH NATURAL AIR JETS--ONLY MY PET IS MUCH FASTER!
HE CAN APPARENTLY HARDEN HIS HIDE, TOO! THESE WALLS LOOK PRETTY SOLID!

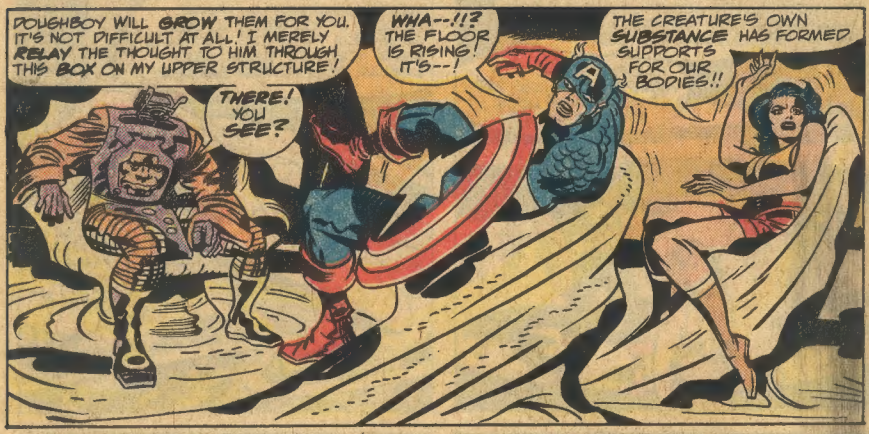

VERY OBSERVANT, MY DEAR FELLOW! IF YOU WERE TO SEE DOUGHBOY FROM THE OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW, HE'D SEEM VERY SIMILAR TO A FLYING SAUCER!
I WOULDN'T MIND A LOOK OUTSIDE--IF ONLY TO PROTECT MY SANITY!!

I'M CERTAIN THAT DOUGHBOY WILL OBLIGE. ALL HE NEEDS IS A BIT OF PRODDING--WITH THIS!!
T-THE WALL--! I-IT'S GROWING THINNER WHERE THAT BEAM STRIKES!

SOON...
THIS SPOT IS NOW COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT!
I-IT'S LIKE A WINDOW! WE CAN SEE THE LAND RUSH BY BELOW US!!!

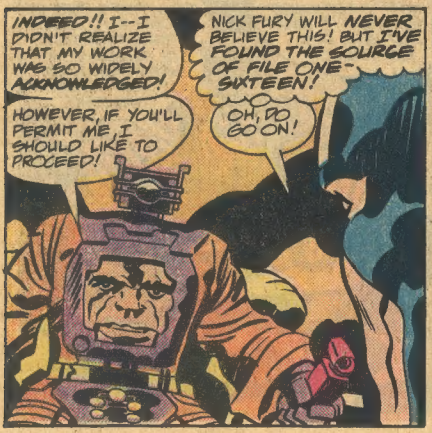
YES, YOU'RE FLYING OVER HILL AND DALE! HAPPILY ADJUSTING TO A MARVEL WHICH ONLY A CHOSEN FEW HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO SEE!!
YES...TELL US MORE--ABOUT THE OTHERS!!
T-THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS--? LIKE US?

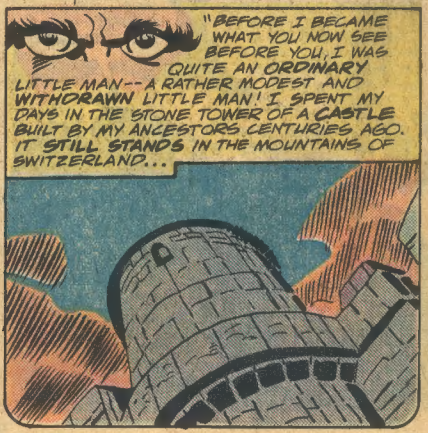

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM!? WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM!?
WELL, THAT'S PART OF A LONG BUT VERY INTERESTING TALE! I'D SUGGEST A SEAT FOR EACH OF YOU--LIKE THIS ONE.


DOUGHBOY WILL GROW THEM FOR YOU. IT'S NOT DIFFICULT AT ALL! I MERELY RELAY THE THOUGHT TO HIM THROUGH THIS BOX ON MY UPPER STRUCTURE!
THERE! YOU SEE?
WHA--!!? THE FLOOR IS RISING! IT'S--!
THE CREATURE'S OWN SUBSTANCE HAS FORMED SUPPORTS FOR OUR BODIES!!

EXTREMELY WELL PUT, MY GIRL! MY, BUT I'M ENJOYING THIS COMPANY IMMENSELY! PLEASE, RELAX... SIT BACK!
NOW, WHERE DOES ONE BEGIN?
DON'T TOY WITH US! WHO ARE YOU!? WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH US?

COME, NOW! COME, NOW! CAN YOU EXPECT ALL THAT YOU'VE SEEN TO BE SUMMED UP IN A FEW CONCISE WORDS?
SOMEHOW, I HAVE THE STRANGE FEELING THAT I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
LET HIM SPEAK.


INDEED!! I--I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT MY WORK WAS SO WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED!
HOWEVER, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME, I SHOULD LIKE TO PROCEED!
NICK FURY WILL NEVER BELIEVE THIS! BUT I'VE FOUND THE SOURCE OF FILE ONE-SIXTEEN!
OH, DO GO ON!


"BEFORE I BECAME WHAT YOU NOW SEE BEFORE YOU, I WAS QUITE AN ORDINARY LITTLE MAN--A RATHER MODEST AND WITHDRAWN LITTLE MAN! I SPENT MY DAYS IN THE STONE TOWER OF A CASTLE BUILT BY MY ANCESTORS CENTURIES AGO. IT STILL STANDS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SWITZERLAND...

"MY NAME WAS **ARNIM ZOLA**! MY WORLD WAS THE LABORATORY--THE WORLD OF **BIO-CHEMISTRY**! FROM MY WINDOW, I COULD SEE THE FLAMES OF WAR TURN THE SKIES RED OVER GERMANY, BUT WHAT **OTHER** MEN DID CONCERNED ME **LITTLE**--

"--FOR I OWNED WHAT **ALL HUMANITY** THIRSTED FOR--**THE SECRET OF LIFE**, HIDDEN BENEATH THE STONE FLOOR IN A **CAST-IRON BOX**...

"TIME AND AGAIN I WOULD PORE THROUGH THE AGE-OLD PAPERS IT CONTAINED. THEY WERE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE NEAR-EAST DURING THE **CRUSADES**--AND I DECODED THE ANCIENT NOTES LONG BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF DNA...

"I SUPPOSE I BECAME THE **FIRST** GENETIC ENGINEER IN MODERN TIMES! I DEVISED EXPERIMENTS TO PRODUCE **MAN-MADE LIFE**!!

"GUIDED BY THE ANCIENT NOTES, I SOON **SUCCEEDED**--!! IN A **SMALL WAY**, OF COURSE. MY PRODUCT WAS A **TINY** THING... BUT IT WAS **ALIVE**! IT LIVED--AND THRIVED!!

"EXPERIENCE ENABLED ME TO GROW **LARGER** FORMS. SOME WERE **DESTRUCTIVE** AND GOT OUT OF HAND! FOR MY OWN SAFETY--I HAD TO **DESTROY** THEM!!

BAM!

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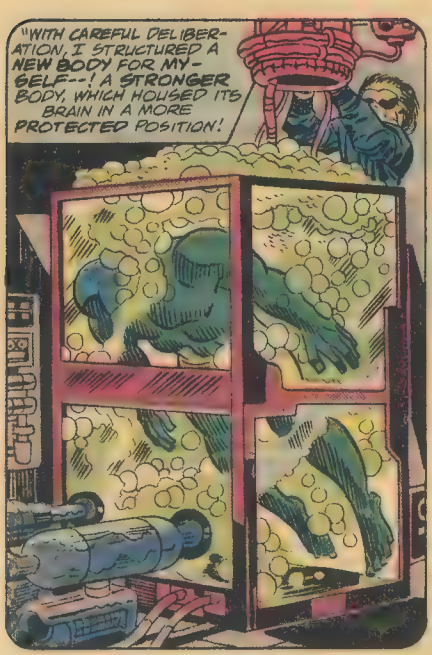
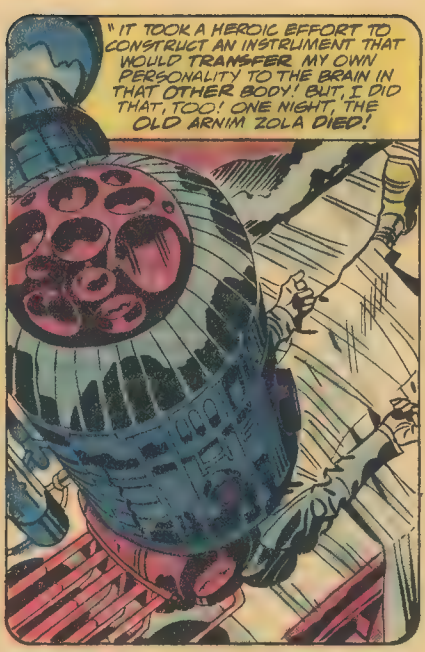
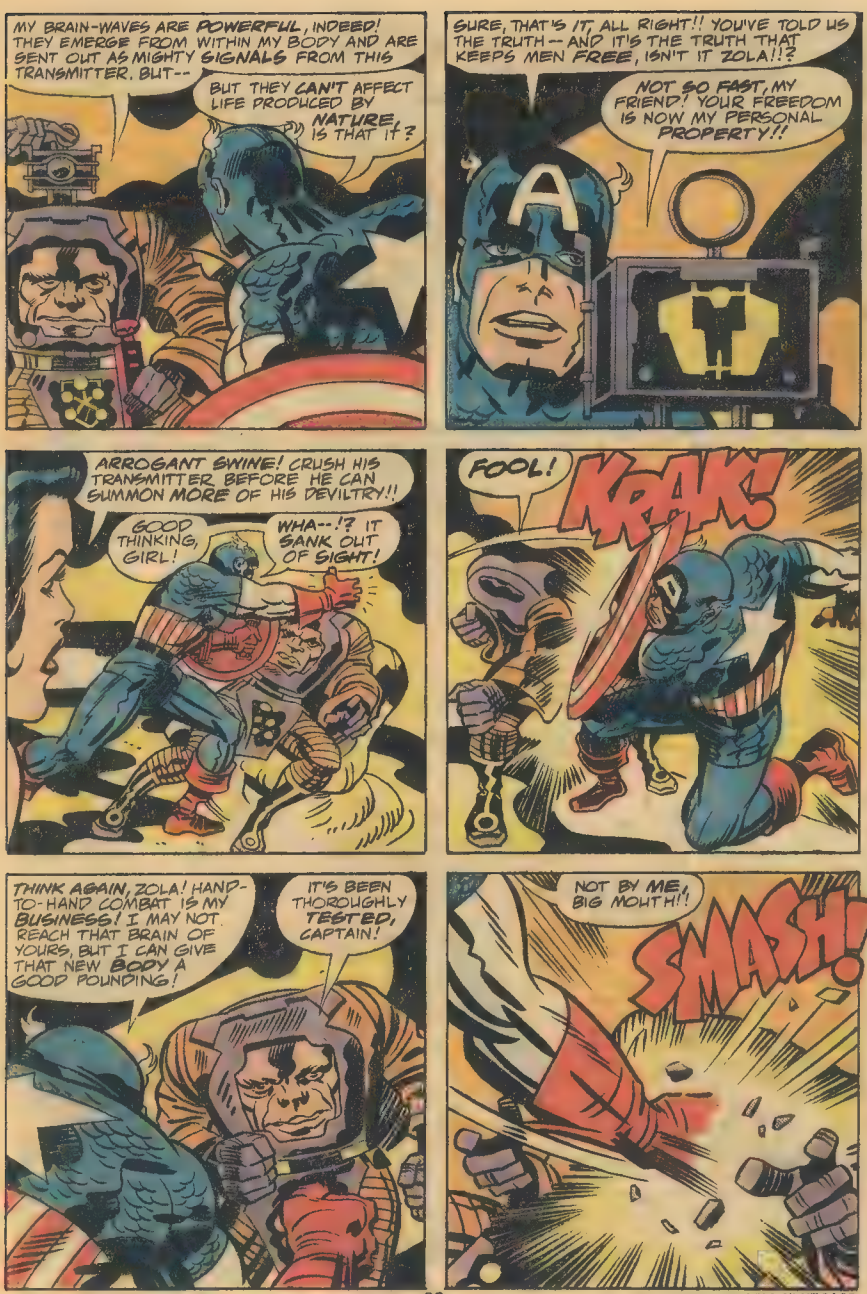

"WITH CAREFUL DELIBERATION, I STRUCTURED A NEW BODY FOR MYSELF--! A STRONGER BODY, WHICH HOUSED ITS BRAIN IN A MORE PROTECTED POSITION!


"IT TOOK A HEROIC EFFORT TO CONSTRUCT AN INSTRUMENT THAT WOULD TRANSFER MY OWN PERSONALITY TO THE BRAIN IN THAT OTHER BODY! BUT, I DID THAT, TOO! ONE NIGHT, THE OLD ARNIM ZOLA DIED!

"THE NEW ONE LIVED TO CONTINUE HIS WORK! HE WAS ABLE TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER HIS EXPERIMENTS PRODUCED. THE NEW BRAIN WITHIN HIS BODY WAS SO POTENT THAT HE COULD CONTROL THEM BY THOUGHT ALONE..."

THIS IS HORRIBLE! CAN HE DO THAT TO US? CAN HE REACH INTO OUR MINDS AND FORCE US TO DO HIS BIDDING?
THAT'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION, ZOLA! CAN YOU CONTROL US...AS YOU DO YOUR CREATURES?
NO! IT IS A PUZZLE THAT I'VE YET TO SOLVE!



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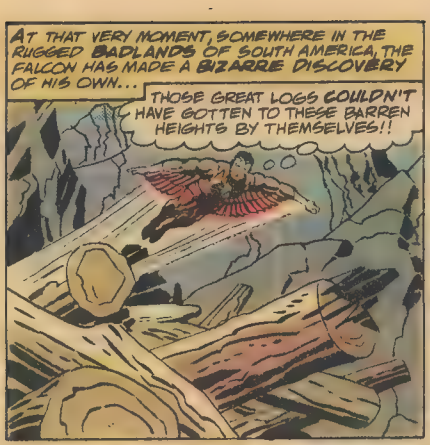
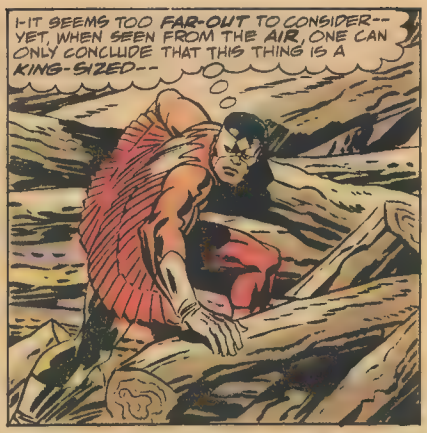
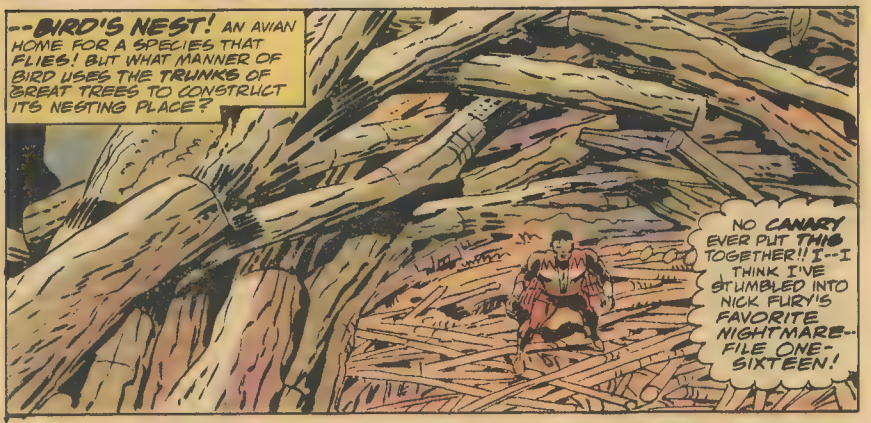
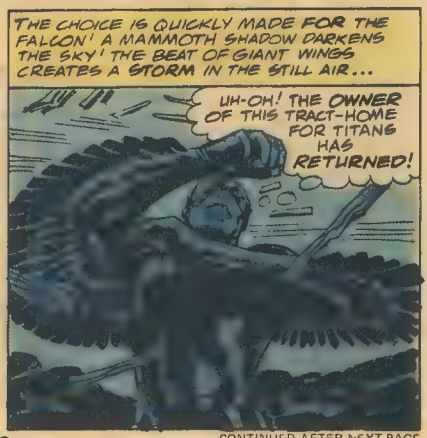
WELL, I DECLARE! YOU DID MANAGE TO DISLODGE ONE OF MY FACE CIRCUITS!!!
THE FACE HAS VANISHED! PERHAPS HE CAN'T SEE!
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
YOU CAN OVERPOWER HIM!! DO IT!! DO IT NOW!!!
WAIT! LOOK! THE WALL BEHIND ZOLA! IT'S COMING ALIVE!!
THE WALL OF LIVING TISSUE SUDDENLY ERUPTS WITH MOTION AND UNLEASHES ITS PRODUCT SQUARELY AT CAP!!!
SINCE YOU INSIST ON COMBAT, YOU SHALL HAVE IT, CAPTAIN AMERICA!
HAVING QUICKLY REPAIRED HIS ELECTRONIC FACE, ZOLA WATCHES THE ENSUING BATTLE WITH GLEE!!
ATTACK, PRIMUS! ATTACK!!
I CAN HANDLE HIM, TOO, ZOLA!
NOT LIKELY, FRIEND!! NOT, WHILE PRIMUS CAN HARDEN HIS BODY LIKE STONE!
POW!









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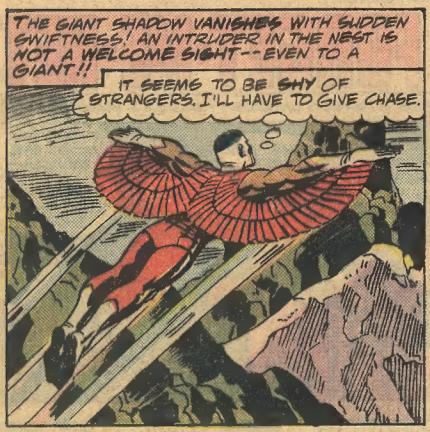
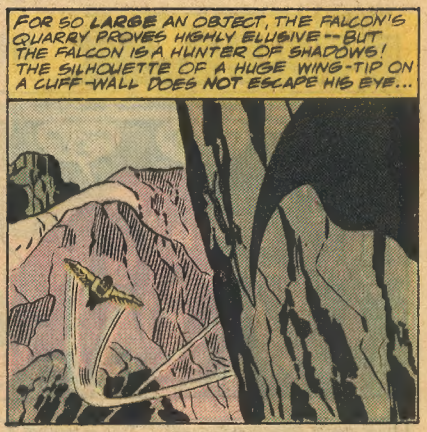
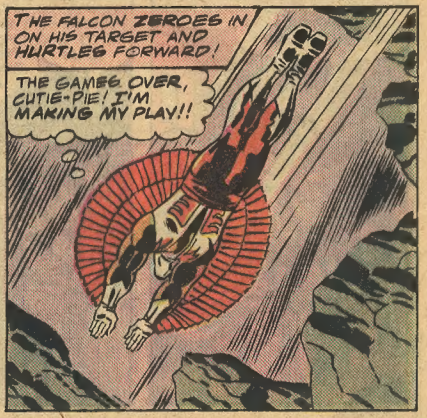
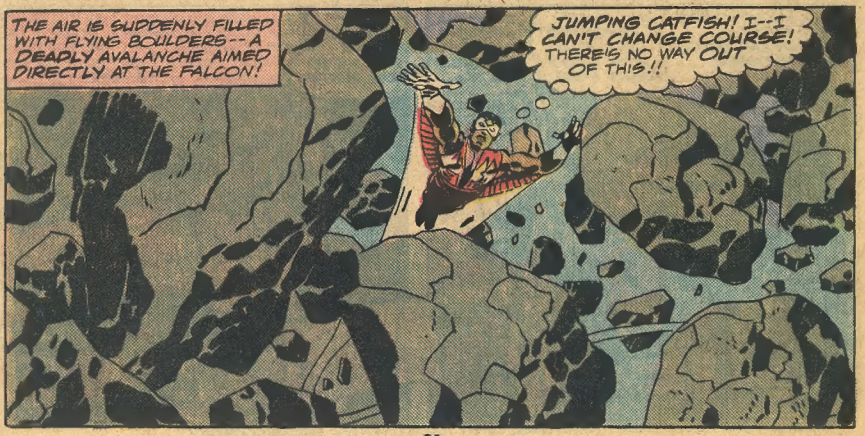
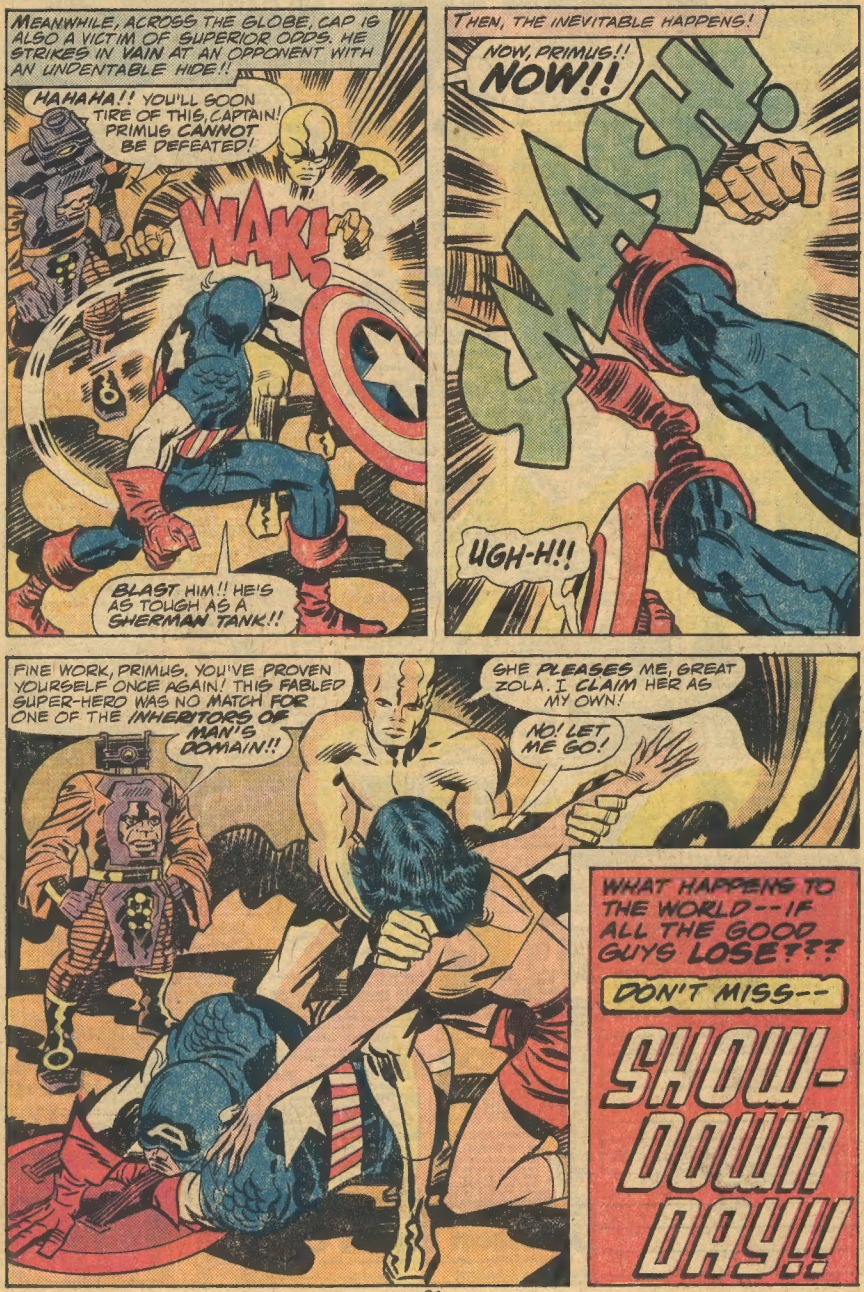

THE GIANT SHADOW VANISHES WITH SUDDEN SWIFTNESS! AN INTRUDER IN THE NEST IS NOT A WELCOME SIGHT--EVEN TO A GIANT!!
IT SEEMS TO BE SHY OF STRANGERS. I'LL HAVE TO GIVE CHASE.


FOR SO LARGE AN OBJECT, THE FALCON'S QUARRY PROVES HIGHLY ELUSIVE--BUT THE FALCON IS A HUNTER OF SHADOWS! THE SILHOUETTE OF A HUGE WING-TIP ON A CLIFF-WALL DOES NOT ESCAPE HIS EYE...

YOU WON'T SHAKE ME, MISTER! I'M GOING TO STICK TO YOUR TAIL UNTIL I CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU!


THE FALCON ZEROES IN ON HIS TARGET AND HURTLES FORWARD!
THE GAME'S OVER, CUTIE-PIE! I'M MAKING MY PLAY!!


THE AIR IS SUDDENLY FILLED WITH FLYING BOULDERS--A DEADLY AVALANCHE AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE FALCON!
JUMPING CATFISH! I--I CAN'T CHANGE COURSE! THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS!!


MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE GLOBE, CAP IS ALSO A VICTIM OF SUPERIOR ODDS. HE STRIKES IN VAIN AT AN OPPONENT WITH AN UNDENTABLE HIDE!!
HAHAHA!! YOU'LL SOON TIRE OF THIS, CAPTAIN! PRIMUS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!
WAK!
BLAST HIM!! HE'S AS TOUGH AS A SHERMAN TANK!!
THEN, THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS!
NOW, PRIMUS!! NOW!!
SMASH!
UGH-H!!
FINE WORK, PRIMUS. YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF ONCE AGAIN! THIS FABLED SUPER-HERO WAS NO MATCH FOR ONE OF THE INHERITORS OF MAN'S DOMAIN!!
SHE PLEASES ME, GREAT ZOLA. I CLAIM HER AS MY OWN!
NO! LET ME GO!
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WORLD--IF ALL THE GOOD GUYS LOSE???
DON'T MISS--
SHOW-DOWN DAY!!

Opinions are so diverse on this title that this month we decided to try to squeeze in as many letters as possible. Thus, without further ado...

Marvel Madmen,

When I saw CAPTAIN AMERICA #204, I liked it, although I didn't expect much from the next issue—but #205 was fantastic! The art was great, the story was terrific, and Argon totally freaked me out. It was one of the best issues I've read in many a month. Cap was never really my favorite superhero, but if the stories keep up like this, he may soon be.

Bob Fitschen
6701 NW 23rd St.
Margate, FL 33063

Whomever:

For once, I'm going to write a comic before it is cancelled, something CAP is heading for; the problem is obvious—Jack Kirby.

I like the man and his work, but he's spreading himself too thin, what with CAP, ETERNALS, 2001, and BLACK PANTHER. The result seems to be a lowering of quality all the way around. Both Cap and the Panther are glorified jocks with no real powers; they deserve the "real" worlds of New York and Georgia, not aliens or extra-powered beings from a future earth.

Give CAP and the BLACK PANTHER to other writers and artists, and leave the King free to concentrate exclusively on ETERNALS and 2001.

Charlie Cockett
41 Goshen Mobile Estates
Torrington, WY 82240

Dear Jack--

Congratulations on the two finest issues of CAP since your return. Both #204 and #205 combined action with eerie science fiction.

I am writing mostly to disagree with Rob Allstettes (and, to a lesser degree, Charles Webb), neither of whom appreciate the direction this magazine is going. Yet, contrary to what they seem to remember, Cap's roots are not exclusively, or even primarily, in battling super-foes. Rather, he spent much of his time combating organized menaces like Hydra, AIM and the Yellow Claw, along with the more feasible forces of evil, like Nazism.

In fact, only a few of the bonafide superfoes Cap has fought are exclusively "his" (Zemo, the Red Skull, Batroc, and Modok are the prime examples, although many duller foes like the Tumbler, the Planner, and Dr. Faustus litter his past).

If Rob and Charles would consider the matter, I am sure they would understand the future of Captain America as a comic lies in the creation of new foes, like Agron, rather than the constant use of a very limited cadre of established adversaries.

Mitch Paul
RR #1, Rockland, Ontario
Canada

Dear Marvel,

Lately, I've noticed that the Falcon has a new costume. Instead of swinging on a rope or jumping from ropftop to rooftop, he flies about on winged jets. It's still the same basic design, but the costume is altered.

I've also noticed that Redwing hasn't been around. The Falcon needs his pet. Please let Redwing return.

Keith Floyd
1101 Belmont
Pine Bluff, AK 71601

Uh, Keith...it's not that we want to accuse you of being out of touch or anything, but Falc received his wings in CAPTAIN AMERICA #170 over three years ago!

And, yes, Redwing *will* be returning sooner or later. Now, is everybody happy?

Dear Marvel,

When is Jack going to put Cap back in the Marvel Universe? Why does everything have to be way-out science fiction or straight action/adventure with a cast of complete unknowns? I think this tendency is extremely undesirable, and I'll tell you why.

Captain America is one of the very cornerstones of Marvel reality. He has fought all the standard Marvel baddies, he's a member of the Avengers, he's one of the original Marvel characters. To have him involved with Central American dictators and alien-controlled bodies is just fine. But if that's all the closer he's ever going to get to Thor, the Fantastic Four, et al, then it's definitely *not* fine!

This really irks me. I admire Jack and have been a fan of his for years, but if you're going to take Cap out of the Marvel Universe, I vote to have someone else take over the mag.

Don Jacobson
2243 Falcon Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

Dear Jack and Company,

Jack's writing is good—very good in fact—and naturally it flows perfectly with his art work. The problem is that the King's method of storytelling is most naturally suited for a larger format book.

Now, fortune has it that the people of Marvel are dedicated to the quality of their mags, so that despite the number of pages per book, you generally manage to keep the flavor of a larger story. However, Jack seems unable to write a story in keeping with a smaller format. As a result, when I read CAPTAIN AMERICA, I feel that I have read only half of a comic. There is a distinct feeling that Jack gets caught by a lack of space and the last page or two always seems a bit forced. As a result, the flow of the story gets chopped and the book suffers.

What all this means is that I love Jack's art, but think that he should be replaced as CAP's writer. Please make sure he stays on the art forever.

Robert Konior
120-11 22nd Avenue
College Point, NY 11356

And so the Kirby Kontroversy continues.

Those of you who agree with Bob Konior that Jack needs bigger formats to work with will want to pick up the 1977 CAPTAIN AMERICA and ETERNALS ANNUALs.

And, if you want to see more old, familiar faces, like Don Jacobson does, then don't miss next issue! CAPTAIN AMERICA #210 features the return of the most requested Cap villain of all!

'Nuff said.

scanned by *Wizard*